

Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 SS-15 L-03 DHA-02 ORM-02 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1158

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 7460

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS, PINS, PINT, UG, KE (ODONGKARA, FLORENCE LABOL)

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM

1. POST HAS RECEIVED REQUEST FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM FROM FLORENCE LABOL ODONGKARA, BORN MARCH 5, 1950, GULU, UGANDA. MISS ODONGKARA HAS RESIDED KENYA FOR POST 5 YEARS AND WORKS AS SECRETARY FOR EAST AFRICAN AIRWAYS. SHE HAS BEEN ISSUED SEVERAL B-2 VISAS AND MADE TEMPORARY VISITS TO U.S.

2. ODONGKARA IS DAUGHTER OF JOHN BROWN ODONGKARA, FORMERLY A SENIOR POLICE OFFICER IN UGANDA. JOHN ODONGKARA FLED UGANDA IN 1971 AND IS NOW REPORTED TO BE POLICE OFFICER IN PHILADELPHIA, PA. POST HAS NO RECORD TO INDICATE WHAT HIS STATUS IN U.S. IS, BUT SURMISES HE MAY HAVE RECEIVED INS PAROLE INTO U.S. HIS WIFE AND EIGHT CHILDREN ARE ALSO REPORTED TO BE LIVING IN U.S.

3. ACCORDING TO THE NAIROBI STANDARD, JOHN ODONGKARA ON MONDAY, JULY 12, ANNOUNCED IN PHILADELPHIA THE FORMATION OF THE POPULAR FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF UGANDA (PFLU). THE FRONT-PAGE REPORT SAID ODONGKARA WAS ACCOMPANIED AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE BY FORMER U.S. AMBASSADOR TO UGANDA THOMAS MELADY. ACCORDING TO ODONGKARA'S PRESS RELEASE, THE PFLU NUMBERS SEVERAL HUNDRED UGANDAN EMIGRES IN THE U.S.

4. FLORENCE ODONGKARA WAS CALLED UPON BY KENYAN POLICE OFFICERS ON
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FRIDAY, JULY 16. THEY INFORMED HER THEY COULD NO LONGER GUARANTEE

HER SAFETY IN KENYA AGAINST POSSIBLE REPRISALS BY UGANDAN AGENTS. ON JULY 17 THE EMBASSY VERIFIED WITH POLICE SUPERINTENDANTS THAT THEY HAD MADE THIS STATEMENT TO ODONGKARA, AND WAS TOLD THAT THE POLICE HAVE ADVISED ODONGKARA TO LEAVE KENYA FOR HER OWN SAFETY. SHE HAS NOT, HOWEVER, BEEN PLACED UNDER DEPORTATION ORDERS, AND APPARENTLY MAY REMAIN LEGALLY IN KENYA INDEFINITELY.

5. IN SEPARATE BUT RELATED MATTER, POST HAD RECEIVED LETTER FROM ODONGKARA'S BROTHER-IN-LAW, VINCENT H.P. DONG-WODOLAM, WHO WAS ISSUED F-1 VISA HERE ON AUGUST 7, 1974. HE WROTE TO REQUEST THAT VISAS BE ISSUED TO HIS THREE CHILDREN, WHO ARE HERE IN CARE OF FLORENCE ODONGKARA. POST WROTE TO HIM EXPLAINING NEED FOR CURRENT COPY OF HIS I-20 FORM. IN HIS LETTER HE STATED THAT HIS WIFE, ROSEMARY ODONG-WODOLAM (FLORENCE ODONGKARA'S SISTER), IS STUDENT AT MIDDLESEX POLYTECHNIC IN LONDON. WIFE COMPLETES STUDIES THERE IN JUNE, 1977, AND THEREAFTER PLANS TO REJOIN HUSBAND AND CHILDREN IN U.S. WITH NEW DEVELOPMENT, POST DOUBTS IF ODONG-WODOLAM FAMILY WILL BE ABLE TO RETURN TO UGANDA.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ASCERTAIN FROM INS STATUS OF JOHN ODONGKARA AND FAMILY, AND DETERMINE IF PAROLE POSSIBILITY EXISTS FOR FLORENCE ODONGKARA AND HER DAUGHTER, SARA APOKO, BORN MAY 30, 1972, TORORO, UGANDA. (FLORENCE ODONGKARA IS UNMARRIED AND HAS NO OTHER CHILDREN. BOTH SHE AND DAUGHTER HAVE CURRENTLY VALID B-2 VISAS, ISSUED BEFORE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS.) UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES, POST RELUCTANT TO ISSUE F-2 VISAS TO CHILDREN OF VINCENT H.P. ODONG-WODOLAM, ON GROUNDS THEY MAY NOW HAVE NO PERMANENT RESIDENCE ABROAD TO WHICH THEY CAN RETURN. POST BELIEVES SAME LOGIC APPLIES TO ROSEMARY ODONG-WODOLAM, WHO MAY APPLY FOR F-2 LONDON IN 1977. DEPARTMENT'S OPINION WILL BE APPRECIATED.

7. FYI: WITH KENYA-UGANDA RELATIONS WORSENING, SITUATION OF UGANDANS WORKING IN KENYA BECOMES INCREASINGLY PRECARIOUS. SOME MEMBERS OF KENYA PARLIAMENT HAVE CALLED FOR DISMISSAL FROM JOBS OF UGANDANS. ACCORDING TO JULY 16 NEWSPAPERS, GOK HAS ORDERED THE DISMISSAL OF 123 UGANDAN EMPLOYEES OF EAST AFRICAN AIRWAYS WORKING AT NAIROBI'S AIRPORT, TO PROVIDE JOBS FOR KENYANS. POST EXPECTS TO RECEIVE GREATER VOLUME OF REQUESTS FROM UGANDANS UNEMPLOYED IN KENYA AND UNWILLING TO RETURN TO UGANDA FOR ASYLUM IN U.S. POST ALSO SCRUTINIZING UGANDAN NONIMMIGRANT VISA
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APPLICANTS MORE CAREFULLY.
MARSHALL

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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